Ark Angels

VOLUME ONE

Sang-Sun Park

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

{Chapter 1}
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We come from an Earth in a parallel dimension.
Our mission is to rescue the animals of Your planet that are on the brink of extinction, preserving them in "Noah's Ark."
Our perception of Your Earth's animals is different from Yours.
We don't just see an animal's physical form, but we look inside to its soul.
That's WHY...We believe every life is equal and precious.

YAAAAAAA!!!
Our first expedition starts today.
This is Hamu. She likes to complain.
OWWWCH... YOU REALLY NEED TO WORK ON YOUR LANDINGS!
Damn! My hair is all messed up!
She is my second-oldest sister. She got the good looks, but was made disagreeable in return. She hates men with a passion.

This is my oldest sister, Shem.
IT'S NOT PINDIN'S FAULT. THE TURBULENCE BETWEEN DIMENSIONS MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN OUR FORMS.
She's kindhearted and is really serious about most things, but when she gets angry, she's like a monster!
HEY, CHECK IT OUT! IT LOOKS LIKE OUR CLOTHES CHANGED FOR THIS MISSION!
WELL, SINCE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...
MY name is Japheth. I'm the youngest.
LET'S QUIT STANDING AROUND AND GET TO WORK!

ピカッ
Mariana Archipelago
Guam
THE YEAR IS 1988
THE PLACE IS GUAM'S MARIANA ARCHIPELAGO.
OUR QUARRY IS THE GUAM FRUIT BAT.
OUR WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY IS 24 HOURS!

パタパタ
ポリッポオッ
GET HIM!! IF THAT BAT GETS AWAY, NOBODY GETS PAID!! NOT FOR A WHOLE MONTH!!!
GOTCHA!!

HUH? WHERE'D HE GO? I THOUGHT I HAD HIM...
HE'S GONE...
Our perception of Your Earth's animals is different from Yours. We don't just see an animal's physical form, but we look inside to its soul...and to us, its soul looks just like humans do.
P-please, let me go... I don't want to be eaten.
I promise you, I taste terrible.
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE NOT GOING TO EAT YOU.
WE CAME FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION TO RESCUE YOU. WE HAVE AN ARK WHERE ALL ENDANGERED SPECIES CAN LIVE FREE.

NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT, AND NOBODY WILL EVER FIND OUT, EITHER. ONCE YOU'RE ONBOARD, YOU'LL BE SAFE FOREVER.
WHEN THE EARTH BECOMES BEAUTIFUL AGAIN, WE'LL UNLOAD OUR ARK AND THE ANIMALS WILL RETURN.
BUT NOT BEFORE HUMANS LEARN TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THEIR ANIMAL BRETHREN!

I was the one who explained it
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF KISSING ME?! YOU'RE JUST A BAT!
WATCH IT, MISTER!
OOPS. HEH-HEH... ANYWAY, WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE.
I thought you were here to capture me...
CHU
...but then again, someone as beautiful as you can capture me any time she wants.

NOT YET...WE CAN'T LEAVE YET.
Why not?
Yeah, why?
COME IN!
BAT FOOT
I CAME ALL THE WAY TO GUAM BECAUSE I HEARD YOU SERVE PREMIUM FRUIT BAT CUISINE, CHEF
BUT...IT'S BEEN DAYS, AND YOU HAVEN'T SERVED A SINGLE BAT-BASED MEAL. NOT EVEN A MEASLY WING
UH... WELL...IF YOU COULD PLEASE BE PATIENT A LITTLE LONGER, PRESIDENT ORURUREISHON, WE HAVE THE BAT YOU DESIRE.
I KNOW IT'S GETTING LATE, SO HOW ABOUT A SIMPLE BREAKFAST TO START...?

ALL YOU'VE BEEN FEEDING ME DAY IN AND DAY OUT IS THAT SAME EXCUSE ..
THAT'S A FRUIT BAT? IS IT REALLY SO TASTY? IT LOOKS CREEPY...
THAT'S YOUR MOTHER IN THE CAGE?
YES. THANK GOODNESS SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
I KNEW THIS WAS TOO EASY TO BE TRUE. SO, HOW ARE WE GOING TO SAVE HER? WE NEED A PLAN.
FROM THE SOUND OF IT, SHE'S GOING TO BE OKAY UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING. SO, WE'LL LIBERATE HER TONIGHT!
OH... TH-THANK Y--
ワン

OH, NO! NOT NOW...!
UNGHHH...I NEED TO STAY IN CONTROL...!
I CAN'T!! I CAN'T HOLD BACK ANY MORE!!

Ohhhh! Boop-shoo-woddy-woddy!!
Boop-shoopy-doooo--!!
Do-do-do-woddy-doddy!!
Wha?
Boop-oh-boo...
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?
UH NOTHING, REALLY. I JUST SUDDENLY FELT LIKE SINGING
HA!!

LISTEN UP, OLD MAN!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING? FRUIT BATS ARE BECOMING EXTINCT IN GUAM BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU!
YEAH, SO? THEY'RE JUST FLYING RODENTS. BAT CUISINE IS HOW I MAKE MY LIVING.
OH HO...YOU GUYS MUST BE FROM SOME ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP, EH?
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP YOU LOCKED UP UNTIL TOMORROW'S BAT BREAKFAST IS SERVED. I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU GUYS INTERFERE.
THESE TWO BATS ARE THE ONLY REMAINING FRUIT BATS IN THE ENTIRE WORLD!!
THOUGH IF YOU PRETTY GIRLS DECIDE TO PROTEST IN THE NUDE, THEN YOU MIGHT GET MY ATTENTION BWA HAW HAW!

SHOOT... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
I DON'T KNOW. WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN ON OUR FIRST TIME OUT?
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!
BUT...IT'S ANIMAL INSTINCT. FRUIT BATS CAN'T RESIST SINGING ALOUD.
I'm hungry... Feed meeee...
OOOH, WHAT'S YOUR NAME? YOU'RE CUTE!
Feed meeee nowww.
I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR MOTHER...
YEAH, SHE'S A BIT OFF..

WAY BACK WHEN, I HAD A LARGE FAMILY WITH MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS. WE LIVED IN PEACE AND ATE SWEET-SMELLING FRUITS.
THEN THE TOURISTS CAME, AND THEY CRAVED GOURMET FOOD. ALL OF MY SIBLINGS WERE CAPTURED AND PREPARED AS FOOD...
SOON, I WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
HMM. ARE YOU NUMBER SIX?
MAMA, I'M NUMBER FIFTY-FIVE. DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT BROTHER NUMBER SIX WAS BARBECUED?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'VE BEEN WIPED OUT IN THE NAME OF TOURISM. I SET HUMANS WOULD EAT FAT FROM THEIR OWN BUTTS IF THEY WERE TOLD IT TASTED GOOD...

SO, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE HAVE TO BE OUT OF THIS DIMENSION BY SIX O'CLOCK TOMORROW MORNING. IF WE DON'T MAKE IT OUT, THE TIME DOOR WILL CLOSE, AND IT WON'T OPEN AGAIN FOR ANOTHER DECADE. WE'LL BE TRAPPED IN THIS WORLD UNTIL THEN!
I HAVE AN IDEA...
BIG SIS, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU EARLIER, BUT I RAN OUT OF CLEAN UNDIES, SO I BORROWED YOUR PAIR WITH TEDDIES ON IT.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
I WAS SAVING THOSE FOR MY VERY FIRST DATE...!!

THOSE PANTIES WERE FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION!!
JEEZ. JUST KIDDING.
OOH!! YOU HAVE SUCH A CRUEL SENSE OF HUMOR
JOKE BROKE US OUT OF HERE.
UM...HAS ANYONE SEEN MY MOTHER?
SHE ISNT ...??

GET THEM!!
THE BATS HAVE ESCAPED!!
IT'S A DEAD END! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

heh
Hee hee
LEAVE THIS TO ME.
ALL RIGHT, BOYS. WHY DON'T YOU STAND STILL JUST LIKE THAT UNTIL TOMORROW? DO IT FOR LITTLE OL' ME, PRETTY PLEASE?

OKAY.
NOT YOU!!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
I HYPNOTIZED THEM, OF COURSE.
M-MA'AM--!
MAMA!
I WONDER WHERE HIS MAMA BAT WENT..
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WE ONLY HAVE AN HOUR LEFT...

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IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. BY THE WAY, I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER GUYS CHASING US.

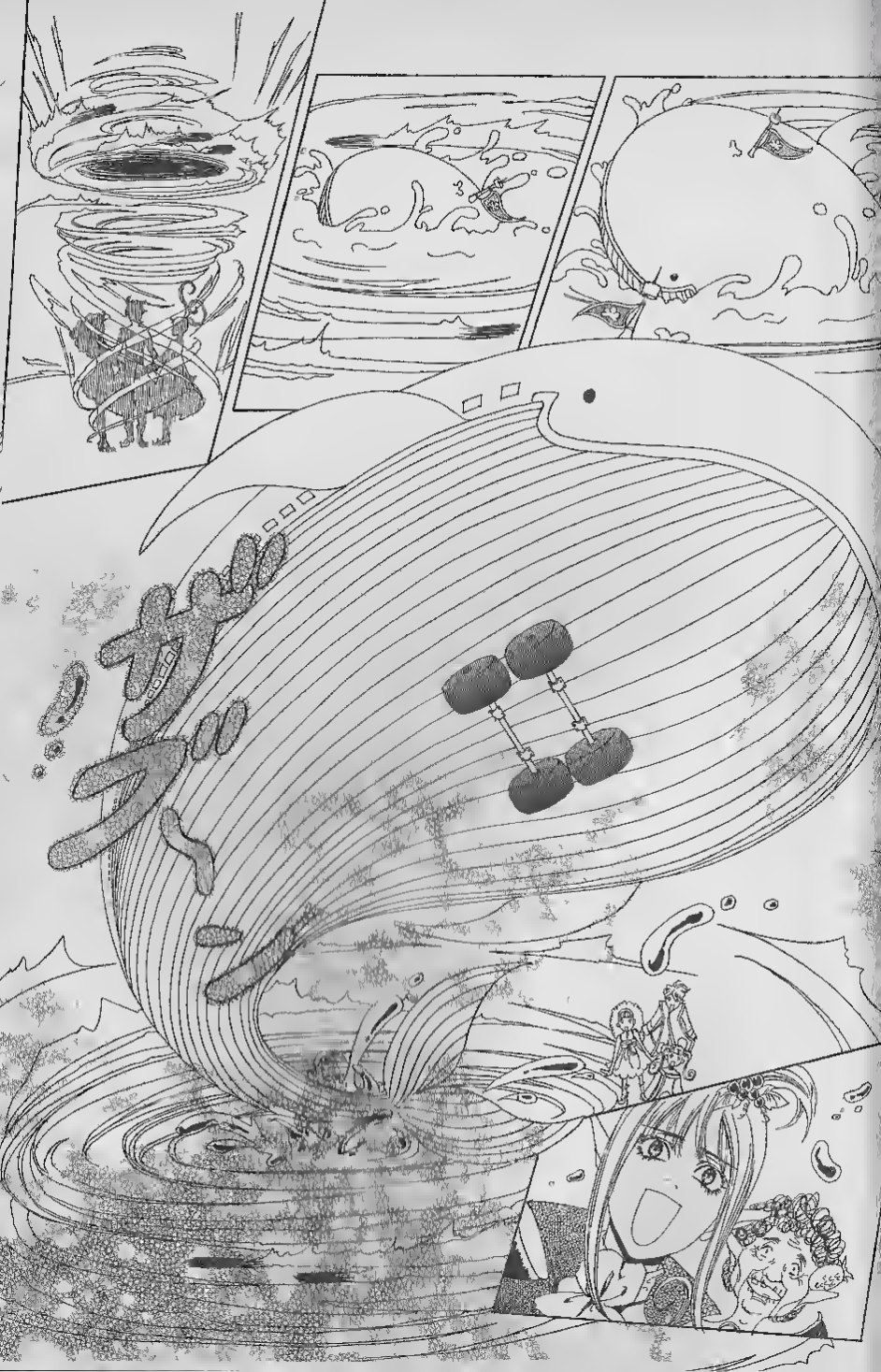
AAAAAAH!!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!

HURRY! ONLY THREE MINUTES LEFT!!
ドドド
パラパラ
TAKE ONE MORE STEP, AND I'LL BE FORCED TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF THESE BABIES!

ARE THOSE ROLLING PINS?
THE WAY THEY PIERCED THAT WALL, THEY'LL FLATTEN US FOR SURE!
YAWN, WHY MUST A PRESIDENT BE BOTHERED WITH GOING TINKLE?
NOW!!
ROLL OVER AND BE DEAD!

I STOPPED TIME.
HUH?! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IT'S KIND OF EASY, BUT I CAN ONLY DO IT ONCE A DAY AND FOR NO MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES.
LET'S NOT WASTE IT. SUMMON OUR ARK!



EXCELLENT! NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND YOUR MOTHER, LET'S GET ON BOARD!
MUST WE REALLY ABANDON OUR HOME...?
WE USED TO COEXIST WITH HUMANS...
HURRY AND GET IN! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!!
MAMA! YOU CAME BACK TO YOUR SENSES!
WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU? OHHHH, I'M SO HUNGRY!!
BUT HOW DO WE BOARD A BOAT THIS SMALL?
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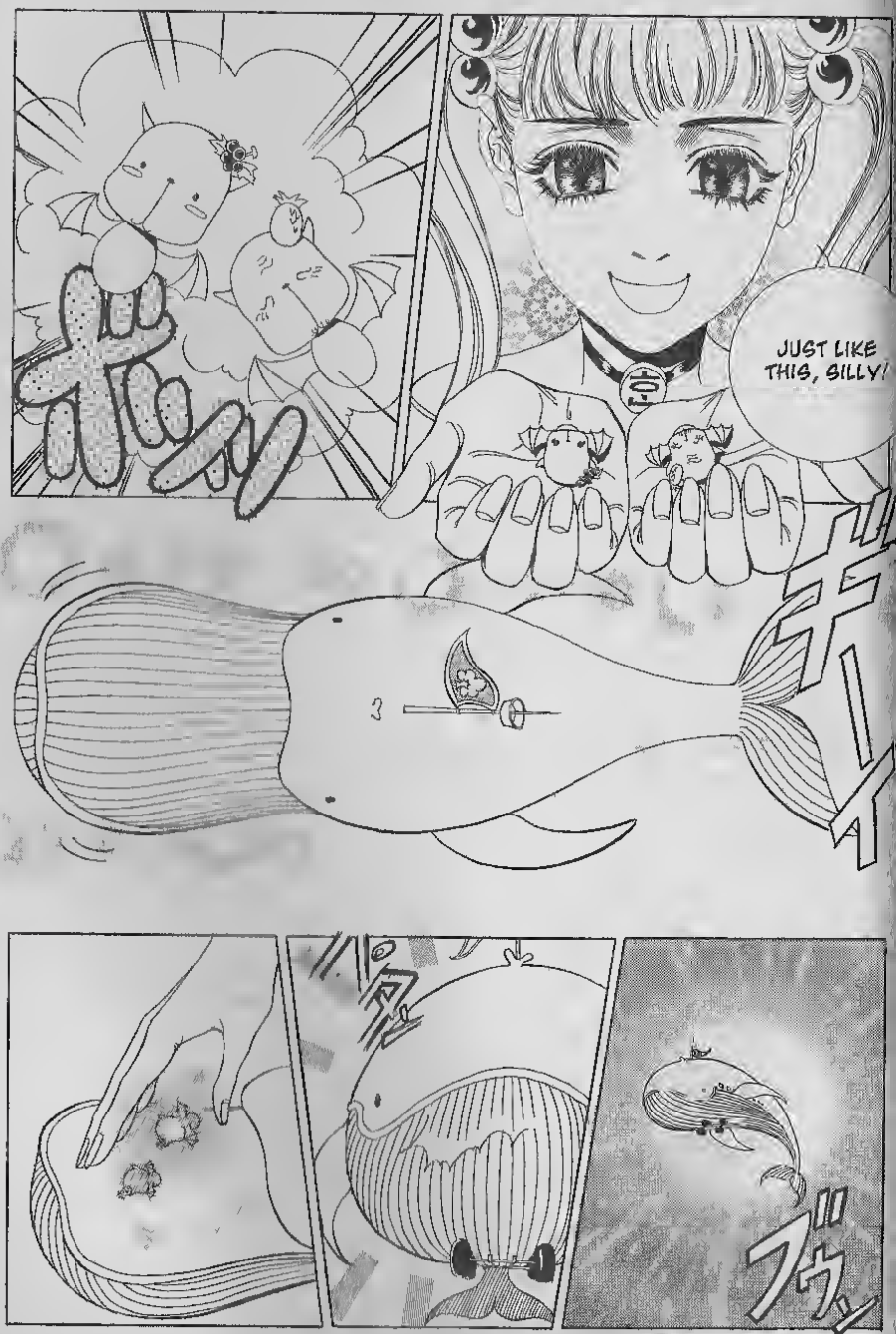
JUST LIKE THIS, SILLY!
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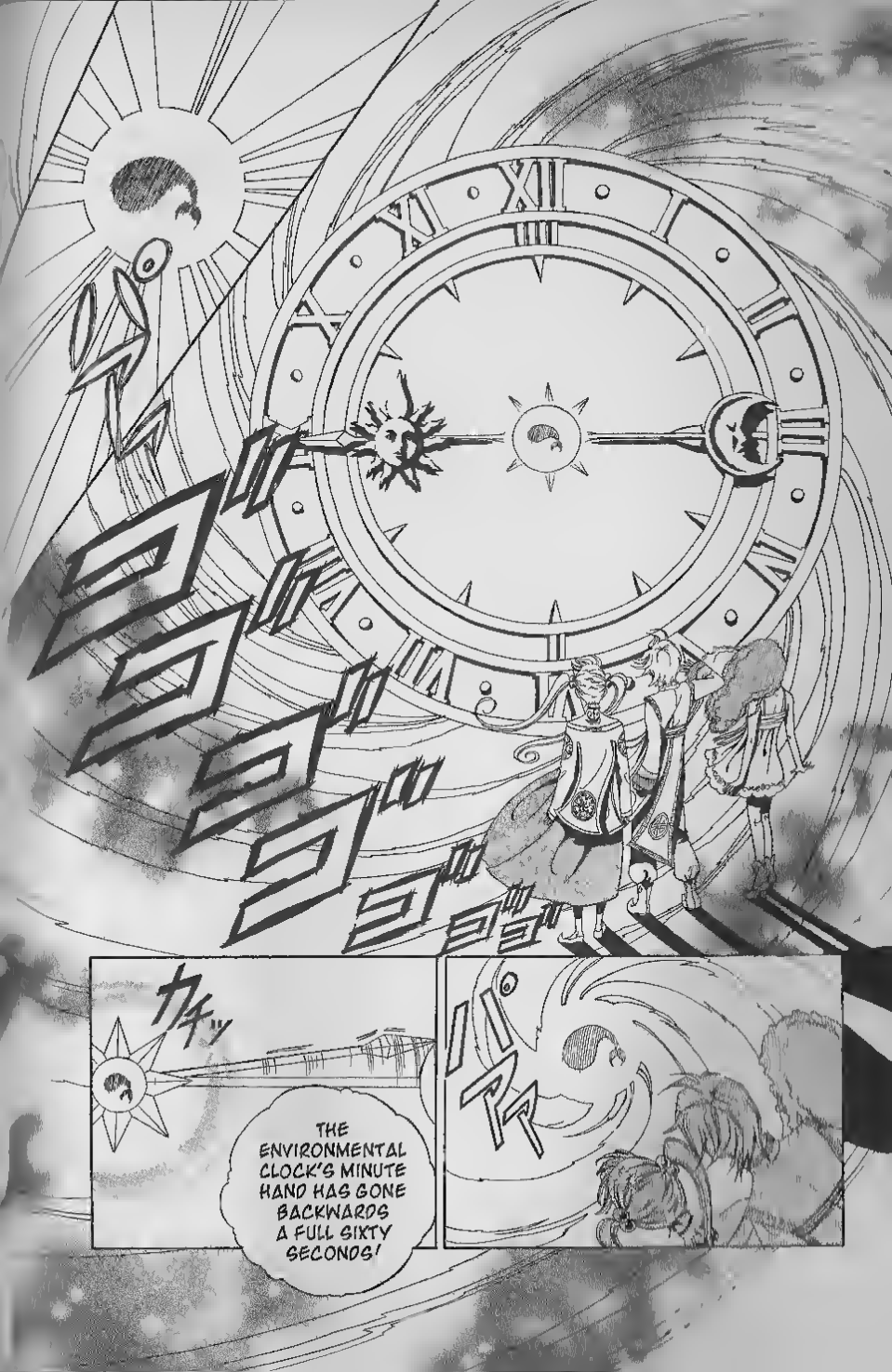
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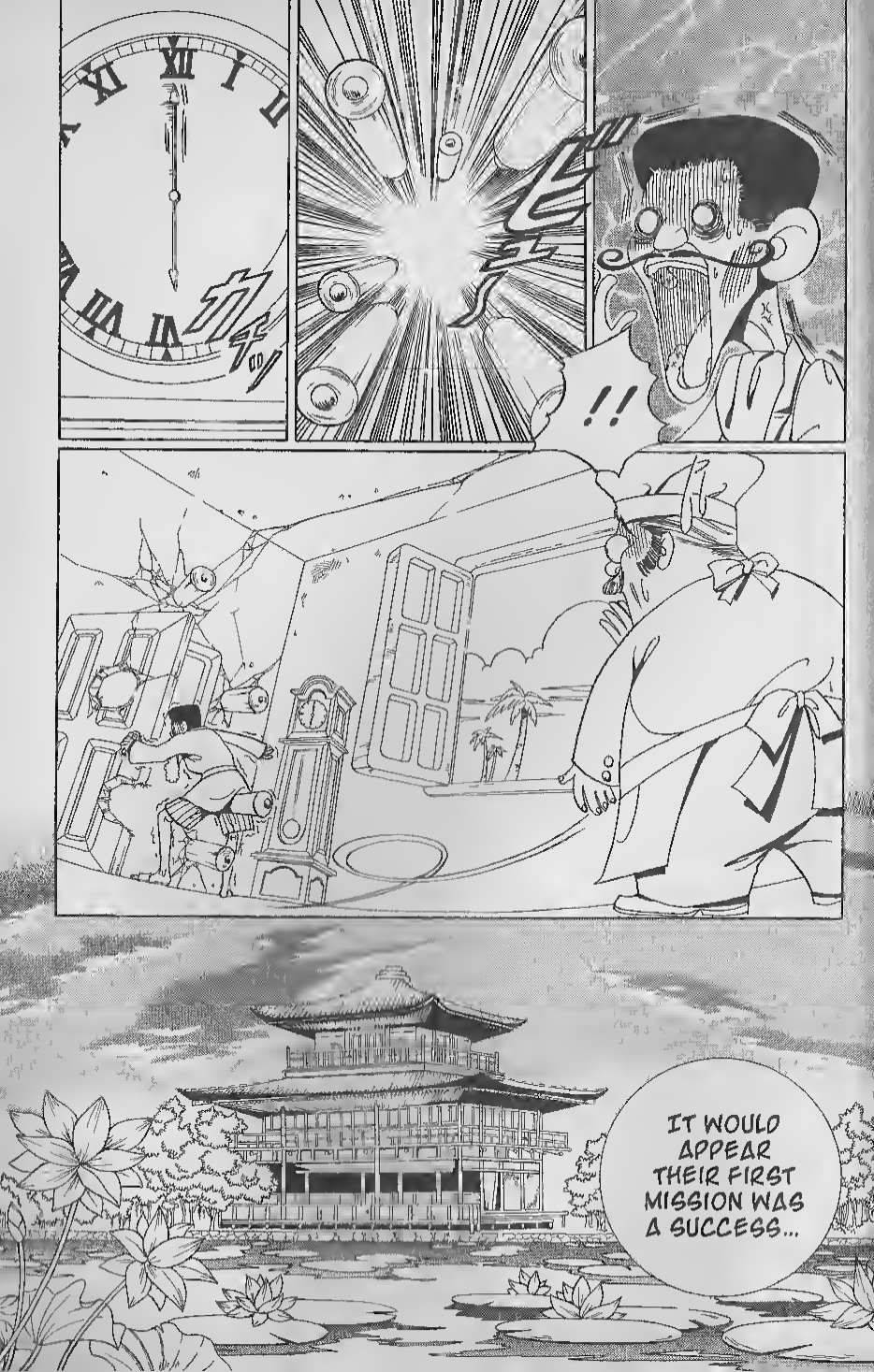
パァ
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLOCK'S MINUTE HAND HAS GONE BACKWARDS A FULL SIXTY SECONDS!

MISSION ACCOM-PLISHED!
FANTASTIC! LET'S GO HOME, GIRLS!
TENTEN!
MINMIN!
PIN-PIN!!

WEE
HEE
HEE!


!!
IT WOULD APPEAR THEIR FIRST MISSION WAS A SUCCESS...

BUT WHY DO THEY INSIST ON DEFENDING THESE HUMANS FROM PUNISHMENT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND THEIR REASONING.
IF WE GAVE HUMANS A SECOND CHANCE, THEY WOULD SURELY DESTROY US ALL
SHEM, HAMU, JAPHETH...FROM NOW ON, I WILL VIEW YOU THREE AS MY ENEMIES.
THIS TOWN IS PRETTY SMALL...

We have decided to live as humans in this world. Hamu and I have become students...
THAT SCHOOL'S NO BIGGER THAN A BEAN. IT'S LIKE WE'RE IN SOME KIND OF SUPER-DUPER FARM COMMUNITY.
...and Shem is the owner of a flower shop. She'll act as our guardian when it comes to our education and things.
BUT EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE LIKE THIS, YOU GET ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE..
...INCLUDING IDIOT BULLIES.
FORGET ABOUT THOSE GUYS. WE HAVE TO GET GOING!
WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE.

JAPHETH, HOW CAN YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON THE INJUSTICE IN OUR NEW HOME?
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEAR, BUT WE MUST MAKE THIS A BETTER WORLD...
Y-YOU GUYS... YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO B-BE ACTING THIS WAY.
H-HEY, YOU GUYS...IT'S NOT R-RIGHT TO TAKE THAT KID'S M-MONEY.
SHE STARTED IT! I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS...
OKAY, YOU LITTLE WUSS. NOW THAT I GOT WHAT I WANT, GET OUT OF MY FACE!

HUH? WHAT THE...?
OH NO HE DIDN'T...!!
ラブ!!
ラブ!!
OW OW OW!
YOWWW!!
GAAAR--!

2 - 10
HE JUST TRANSFERRED HERE TODAY. PLEASE, MAKE HIM FEEL WELCOME.
Eeeek! He's cute!
Seriously! Rikari, I think he's going to be tough competition for Kirigi.
His beauty is second only to our school's most handsome trio!!
P-PLEASED TO MEET YOU ALL.

WAIT! THAT GUY! WE SAW HIM BACK IN... THE PAST?!

TOKYOPOP

Ark Angels™

Sang-Sun Park

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{Chapter 2}

THIS THING THE HUMANS CALL "CLASS" IS SO BORING HUMANS LEARN USELESS THINGS LIKE ALGEBRA WHO CARES WHAT X, Y OR Z ARE?!
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MILK
MILK
BUT THEIR CAFETERIA FOOD IS GOOD, SO REMEMBER..
...GET THROUGH CLASS, AND THEN YOU EAT!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT I REALLY LIKE THIS "TONKATSU." IT'S LIKE MEAT FRIED IN BREAD!

LET THEM BE FOR NOW. THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY TURN OUT TO BE FUN..
YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO REALLY LOOK AT THEM THE OTHER DAY, BUT THOSE KIDS ARE QUITE PRETTY.
I'M HAVING THIS EERIE FEELING... IT'S LIKE..
IT FEELS LIKE SOMEBODY'S WATCHING ME ALL PERVY-LIKE IT'S GROSS...
IF IT'S PERVERTED, THEN IT MUST BE A GUY, NO QUESTION.
MILK

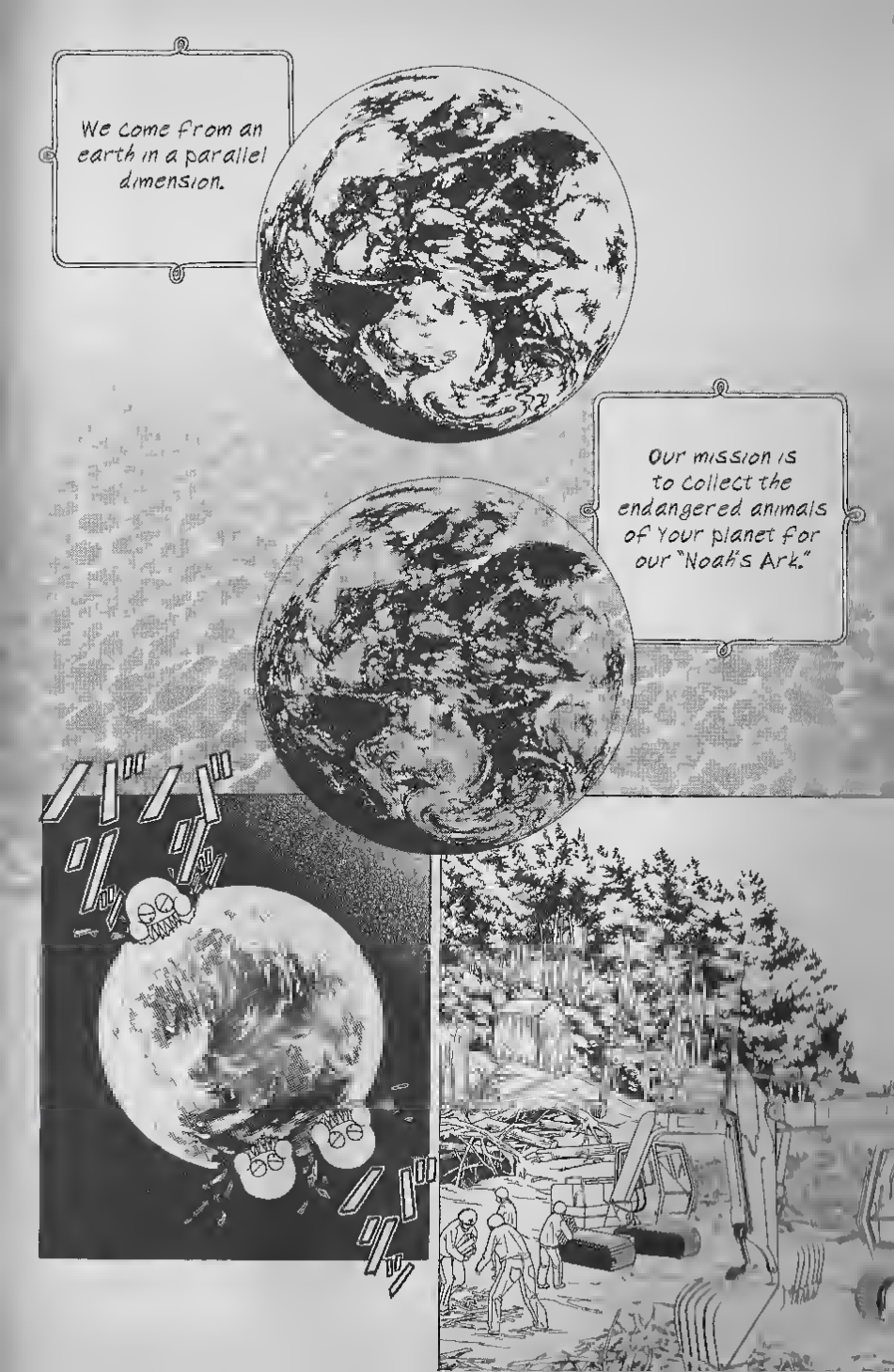
YOU SEE THAT WOMAN THERE?
THE SCHOOL'S DIRTY SECRET IS THAT IT HARDLY HAS ANY CASH, AND SO, IN ORDER TO SAVE MONEY...
...THAT LUNCH LADY HUNTS DOWN "NATURAL" INGREDIENTS.
YOU KNOW. LIKE STRAY DOGS AND CATS.
SO...THAT MEANS THIS IS..

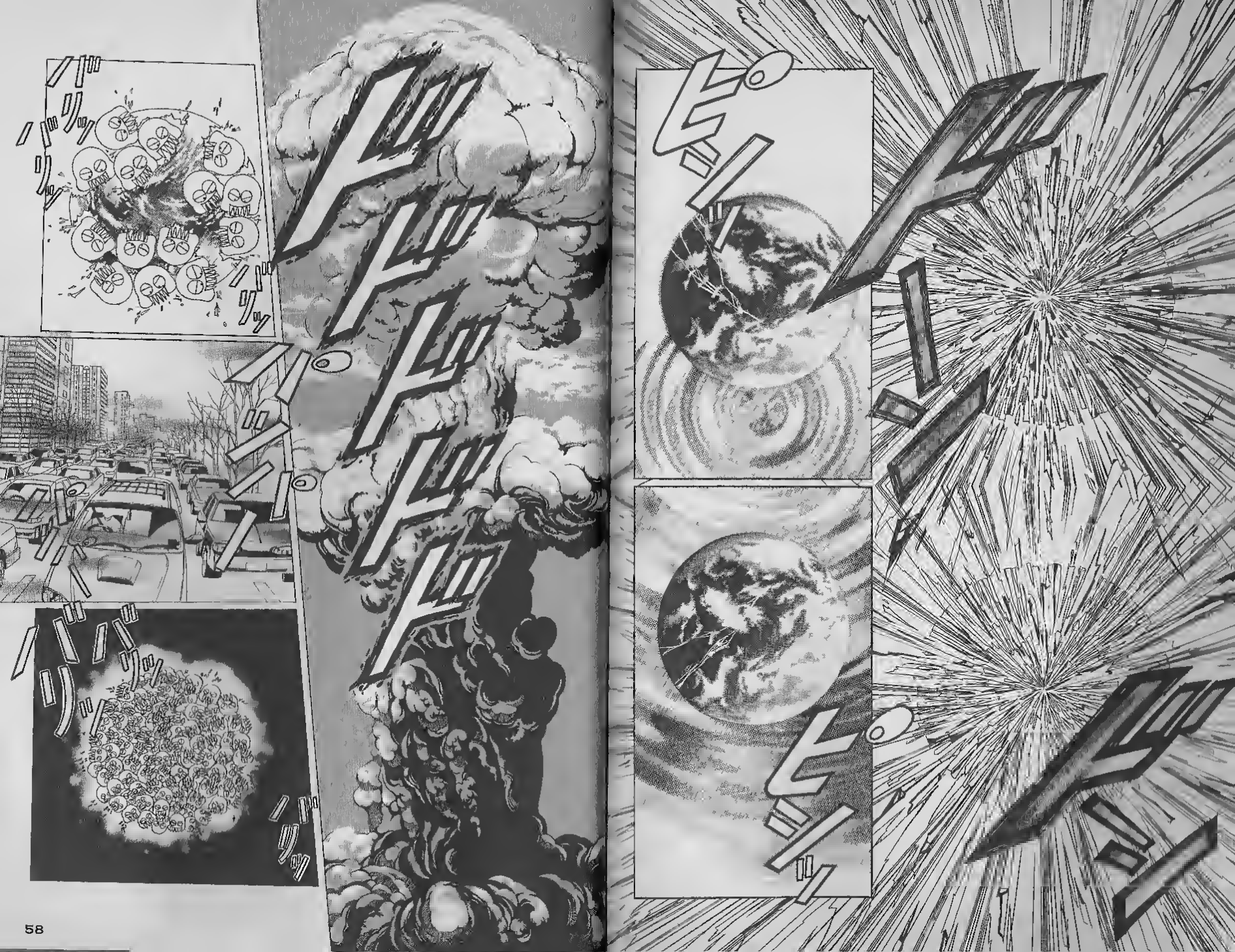
OH, GOOD. THERE'S ONE LEFT
HEY, NO CUTS! THAT TONKATSU...
...IS MINE!!!!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'M ACTUALLY DOING YOU A FAVOR
REALLY? HOW SO?

THANKS FOR HELPING ME!! MY NAME IS JAPHETH. NICE TO MEET YOU!!
MY NAME IS RIKARI.
OOOH! IS THIS YOUR SISTER? SHE'S PRETTY...
ENCHANTED, I'M SURE.
DON'T TOUCH ME, DIRT-BALL!!!
HAMU DIDN'T HURT YOU, DID SHE? SHE DOESN'T LIKE GUYS VERY MUCH.
GAH!

HEY!! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, STEPPING ON ME?!
THAT GUY IS KIRIGI.
OH. I DIDN'T REALIZE THEY KEPT LOOSE IDIOTS ON THE FLOOR AROUND HERE.
HE'S GOT A REPUTATION FOR BEING COLD-HEARTED AND STUCK-UP.

SEE YOU LATER! REMEMBER TO ASK ME BEFORE YOU EAT ANYTHING FROM THIS CESSPIT.
YOU'RE A LIFESAVER. THANKS AGAIN!
YOU RETARD! WHY DID YOU BELIEVE HIM?!


We come from an earth in a parallel dimension.
Our mission is to collect the endangered animals of Your planet for our "Noah's Ark."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THIS EARTH AND ITS HUMANS BEAR A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO THE EARTHS OF THE OUTER DIMENSIONS, LIKE AN OBJECT REFLECTED IN A POOL OF WATER.
WHICH MEANS IF THEY DESTROY THEMSELVES AND THEIR VERSION OF EARTH, ALL THE OTHER EARTHS WILL BE DESTROYED AS WELL.
THEIR RASH ACTIONS CONCERN US AS MUCH AS IT DOES THEM.
ガヤガヤ
That day, all the representatives from every species came together for a conference.

Representatives of planets...
Representatives of spirits and sprites...
Representatives of elements...
Representatives of witches and wizards...

Flashback
IT SEEMS YOUR FATHER HAS GONE TO HIS COOKING CLASS...
We were chosen to attend the conference as stand-ins for our father, who couldn't get out of a cooking class he'd enrolled in.
WHAT?! SO WE HAVE TO GO AS HIS SUBSTITUTES?!
THESE PUNY HUMANS ARE MERELY PARASITES BENT ON OBLITERATING THEIR PLANET...
This man is called "the Lord." The way he's talking, it sounds like something's really going to happen...
...SO WE MUST OBLITERATE THEM INSTEAD! AND WE MUST DO IT NOW!!

SAY SOMETHING! THE FATE OF HUMANITY IS IN OUR HANDS!!
UH...WE ARE SHEM, HAMU, AND JAPHETH, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF NOAH. WE'RE STANDING IN FOR OUR FATHER.
Right, right!!
MAY WE SPEAK, MY LORD?
GO AHEAD.
HUMANS ARE TWO-DIMENSIONAL, HAVING THE CAPACITY FOR BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.
AS LONG AS SOME GOOD STILL EXISTS, WE SHOULDN'T GIVE UP ON THEM. WE SHOULD MAINTAIN HOPE.

THEY CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN THEMSELVES...
...AND MANY EFFORTS ARE MADE TO RECONSTRUCT THE ENVIRONMENT THEY'VE LOST.
BUT ISN'T IT FUTILE TO SACRIFICE OUR OWN LIVES BASED ON THIS TINY SHRED OF "HOPE"?
EXCUSE ME, BUT GIVEN THAT I'VE BROUGHT THIS TOPIC TO YOUR ATTENTION BEFORE, SHOULDN'T I GET A SAY?

KYAA! HE'S TOTALLY ADORABLE!!
EVEN A MAN-HATER LIKE ME CAN'T HELP BUT LIKE THIS GUY
WHAT? WHO IS HE?
MORON!!!
HE'S "EARTH," THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLANET IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM A PLANET THAT GLITTERS WITH BLUE AND SHINES LIKE A JEWEL..
HIS BROTHERS-- THE MOON, MARS, JUPITER-- ARE ALL EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL, TOO.. BUT THEY PALE IN COMPARISON TO HIM.

VERY WELL. ENLIGHTEN US WITH YOUR OPINION.
I CAN NEITHER EXONERATE NOR CONDEMN THE HUMANS...
...NOT WITHOUT GIVING THEM ONE MORE TRY.
BUT LOOK AT YOUR OWN BODY!!
...
YOUR VERY BEING HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CONTAMINATED AND RIDDLED WITH ILLNESS BECAUSE OF THESE HUMANS!!
DIDN'T THE HUMANS EVEN USE YOUR BODY FOR NUCLEAR TESTING RECENTLY?

IF THIS KEEPS UP, RADIATION WILL CONTAMINATE YOU TO THE VERY CORE OF YOUR EXISTENCE AND DESTROY YOU.
DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT?
...I BELIEVE I CAN ENDURE MORE THAN THEY CAN DISH OUT.
THIS IS NO LONGER JUST YOUR PROBLEM, THOUGH. THIS ISSUE CONCERNS ALL OF OUR LIVES, TOO.
YOUR FEELINGS ALONE CAN'T BE OUR ONLY CONSIDERATION.
パチン

Great General of the World
ARE YOU THREATENING ME?

I'M PREPARED TO USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY TO MAKE YOU LISTEN-- INCLUDING BRUTE FORCE.
DION'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU ABOUT MANNERS?

HUMANS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES LIVING ON MY BODY. EVERYONE HERE DOES, TOO.
IT'S NOT ABOUT CHOOSING SIDES WITH ME. IT'S ABOUT EXISTENCE ITSELF.
NOW WHO IS THREATENING WHOM, EARTH?

ドドド

GOD?!
GOD?!
DO YOU SEE THE TRUTH NOW?
TELL YOUR MINIONS THAT HUMANS DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE.

WHY..?
WHY DO YOU OFFER HUMANS SO MUCH LOVE WHEN THEY ONLY GIVE YOU HATE IN RETURN?

WHAT'S YOUR TRUTH NOW? WERE YOU LYING EARLIER? CAN YOU REALLY ENDURE THE HUMAN PLAGUE?
WHEN I FAIL TO HAVE ANY MORE HOPE FOR THE HUMANS, I WILL DISPOSE OF THEM PERSONALLY.

I HAVE HEARD OF A STORY...
OF AN ARK THAT TRANSPORTED ALL OF THE EARTH'S ANIMALS TO SAFE GROUND WHEN MAN'S RECKLESSNESS THREATENED TO DESTROY THEM
FINE THEN BUT I HAVE ONE CONDITION IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS COMPROMISE
THIS IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL CLOCK THAT IS REFLECTIVE OF THE EARTH'S WANING HEALTH.
FOR EVERY SPECIES SAVED, THE HAND WILL MOVE BACKWARDS, AWAY FROM THE END.
EVERY TIME HUMANS DESTROY ANOTHER SPECIES, THE CLOCK WILL MOVE FORWARD, TICKING ITS WAY TO MIDNIGHT.
スイスイ

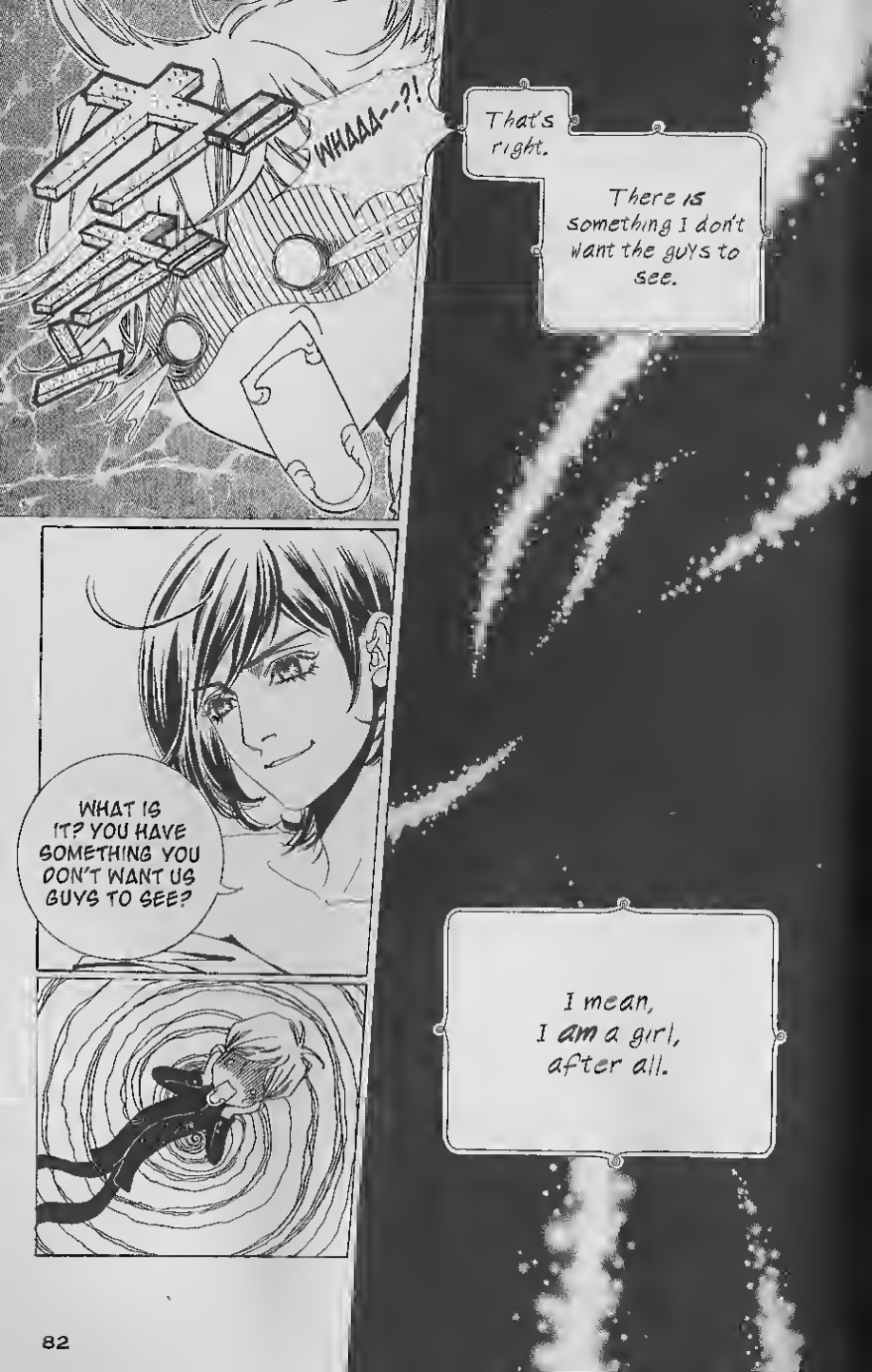
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLOCK IS CURRENTLY AT NINE O'CLOCK. IF THE ARK CAN BE FILLED HALFWAY, PREVENTING THE CLOCK FROM STRIKING MIDNIGHT, I WILL SPARE THE HUMANS. IF NOT, I WILL DESTROY THEM ALL.
WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MISSION OF MERCY?
THAT IS MY CONDITION.

I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO STILL HOLD HOPE FOR HUMANITY!!

Ung... five mo' min'tes...
hâik

MY next class was P.E.
IS YOUR FOREHEAD OKAY? THAT BUMP'S AS BIG AND RED AS AN APPLE!

YOWZA! THAT'S QUITE A BOD! VA-VA-VOOM!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
HUH? WHAT ARE THOSE SCARS?
NOTHING. HEH. JUST LOOKING FOR THE CHANGING ROOM.
CHANGING ROOM? WHY DON'T YOU JUST CHANGE HERE?


WHAAA--?!
That's right.
There IS something I don't want the guys to see.
WHAT IS IT? YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT US GUYS TO SEE?
I mean, I am a girl, after all.

{Chapter 3}

AKK--!!
BEWARE!
LION'S CAGE
Mrrowwr!!
Grrrr!!
YIKES!!
Amusement Park
Korea

TODAY'S TARGET IS A RARE BIRD: A WHOOPING CRANE. THERE AREN'T MANY OF THEM LEFT ON THIS WORLD. THIS KOREAN AMUSEMENT PARK FROM 2005 IS SAID TO HAVE A SPECIMEN, SO LET'S FIND IT.
AN ENDANGERED SPECIES AT A FAIRGROUND? HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?
TASTE IT, BABY. IS IT YUMMY?
YES, SWEETIE, BUT ALL THE MORE SO BECAUSE IT'S YOU THAT'S FEEDING ME.
DARLING, YOU REMIND ME OF THAT CRANE-TYPE BIRD. CLEANLINESS AND LOFTINESS SURROUND YOU.
OH, YOU BIG FLIRT! IT'S NOT TRUE, IT'S NOT!
OMIGOD, THOSE KIDS ARE ANNOYING!

Squaw--!! Squawk squawk!!
HOW DARE THOSE FAT PIGS SAY I'M LIKE THEM?!
Quack!!
Qua-wa-wa!!!
LEMME OUT! I'M GOING TO FLY OVER THERE AND POOP ON THAT NASTY ICE CREAM!!
Our perception of Earth's animals is different from Yours.
We don't just see an animal's physical form, but we look inside to its soul...and to us, its soul looks just like humans do.
THAT BIRD'S OUR QUARRY, AND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, I KINDA KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

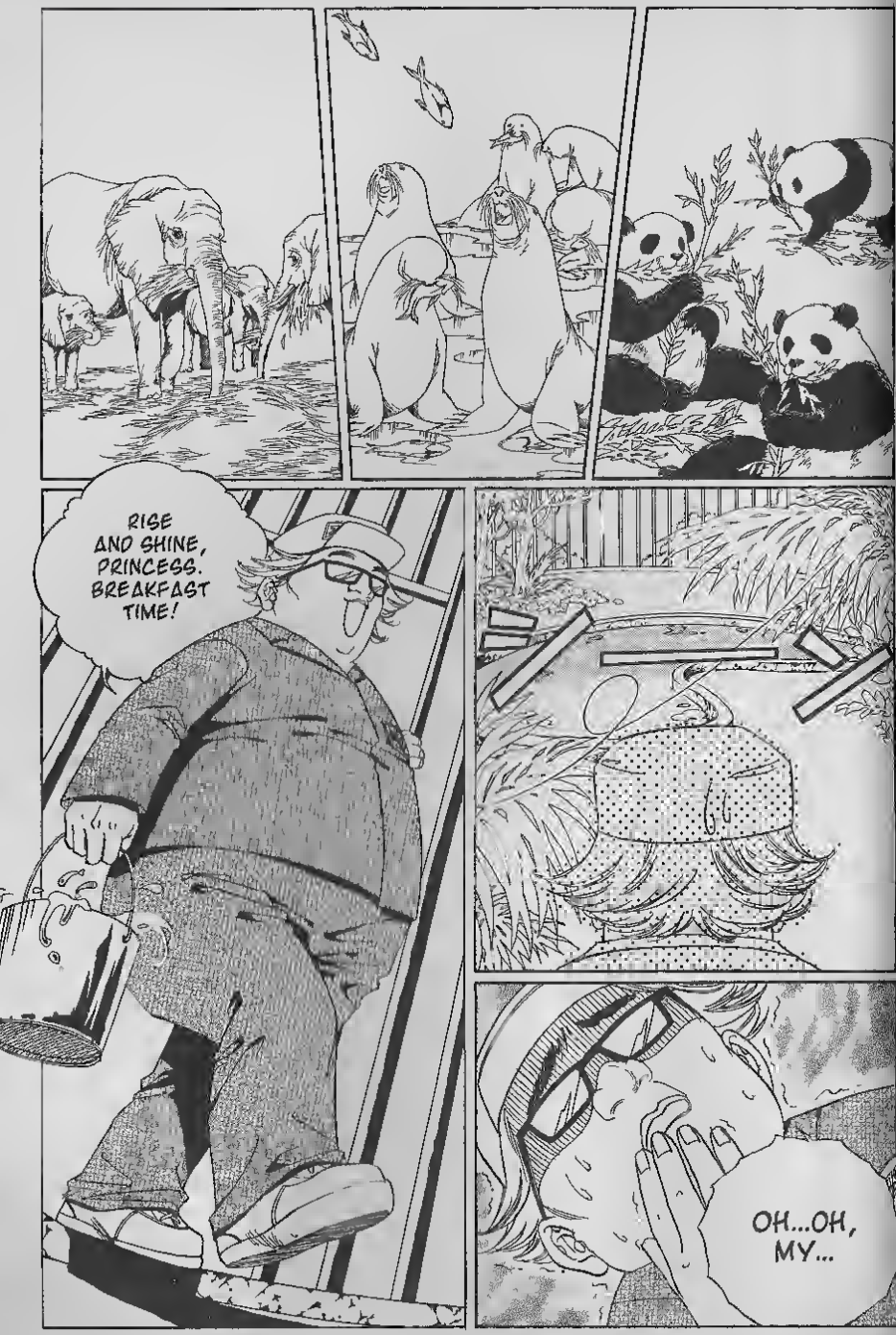
WHAT ARE YOU FREAKS LOOKING AT?!!
DO YOU GET SOME KIND OF SICK THRILL OUT OF SEEING ME TRAPPED BEHIND BARS?!
OH, NO. WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU AND PRESERVE YOU FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.
REALLY? YOU'VE COME TO BUST ME OUT?!

YOUR PRISON IS NO MORE!
HA! FINALLY, I AM FREE OF THAT FRIGHTFUL CAGE!
WHERE'D YOU LEARN SUCH A COOL TRICK?
YOU WOULON'T HAVE USED IT TO PRY OPEN THE CLOSET DOOR AND STEAL MY TEDDY BEAR PANTIES, WOULD YOU?
OH, PLEASE! IT'S UNBECOMING OF YOU TO OBSESS OVER YOUR BEAR PANTIES THAT WAY!
EXCELLENT. LET'S GET YOU UP TO THE ARK.
I DON'T THINK SO.

WHAT?!
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE. BEFORE I GO WITH YOU, YOU MUST FIND ME MY PRINCE!
THE HUMANS CAPTURED ME WHEN I WAS JUST A FRESHLY HATCHED CHICK. I'VE LIVED MY WHOLE LIFE IN A CAGE.
I HATE TO BE A PARTY POOPER, BUT WE ONLY HAVE 24 HOURS... AND IF WE DON'T GET YOU ONBOARD...
OH DEAR...A PUDDLE.
THAT IS SO NOT MY PROBLEM.

YOU, BOY, TAKE OFF YOUR COAT
WHAAA--?! MY COAT!!
That was how we ended up trying to find a mate for that foul, stuck-up fowl.
HO HO HO! IT'S A PRINCE THEY'RE AFTER, EH? THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA...
HAVE YOU NEVER HEARD OF CHIVALRY? KNAVES MUST SACRIFICE FOR THEIR LADIES.

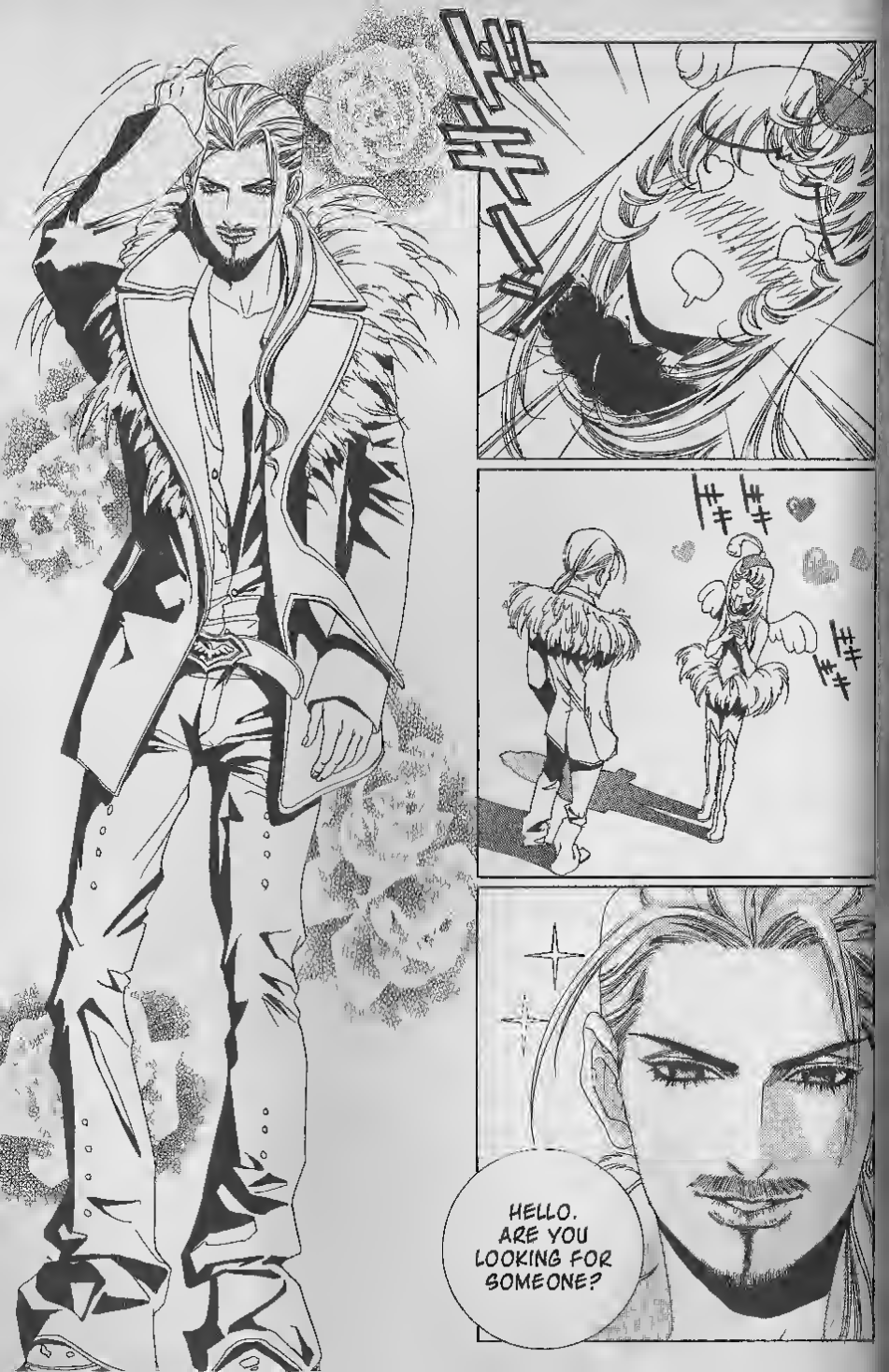
DAMN...THIS PLACE MAKES FOR ROUGH LIVING. THERE'S NOT SO MUCH AS A BLIND SNAIL FOR ME TO SNACK ON!
AWWW, IS SOMEBODY HUNGRY?
DO WHAT WE SAY, AND A BLIND SNAIL WILL BE JUST AN APPETIZER ..


RISE AND SHINE, PRINCESS. BREAKFAST TIME!
OH...OH, MY...

THEY TOTALLY SPOILED HER IN THAT ZOO SHE THINKS SHE'S ROYALTY!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S A SPARROW OR A PIGEON. CRANES ARE RARE. HOW'RE WE GOING TO FIND ANOTHER ONE?
I...I DON'T KNOW... BUT WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.

THE DISDAIN IS MUTUAL. YOU'RE COMPLETELY LACKING IN GRACE!
ガーン
Hee hee hee.
UH...WHERE ARE WE?
CLUB BIRD
WELCOME!

YOU KNOW, THE WORLD OF ANIMALS AND THE WORLD OF HUMANS ISN'T ALL THAT DIFFERENT.
...?


HELLO.
ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE?

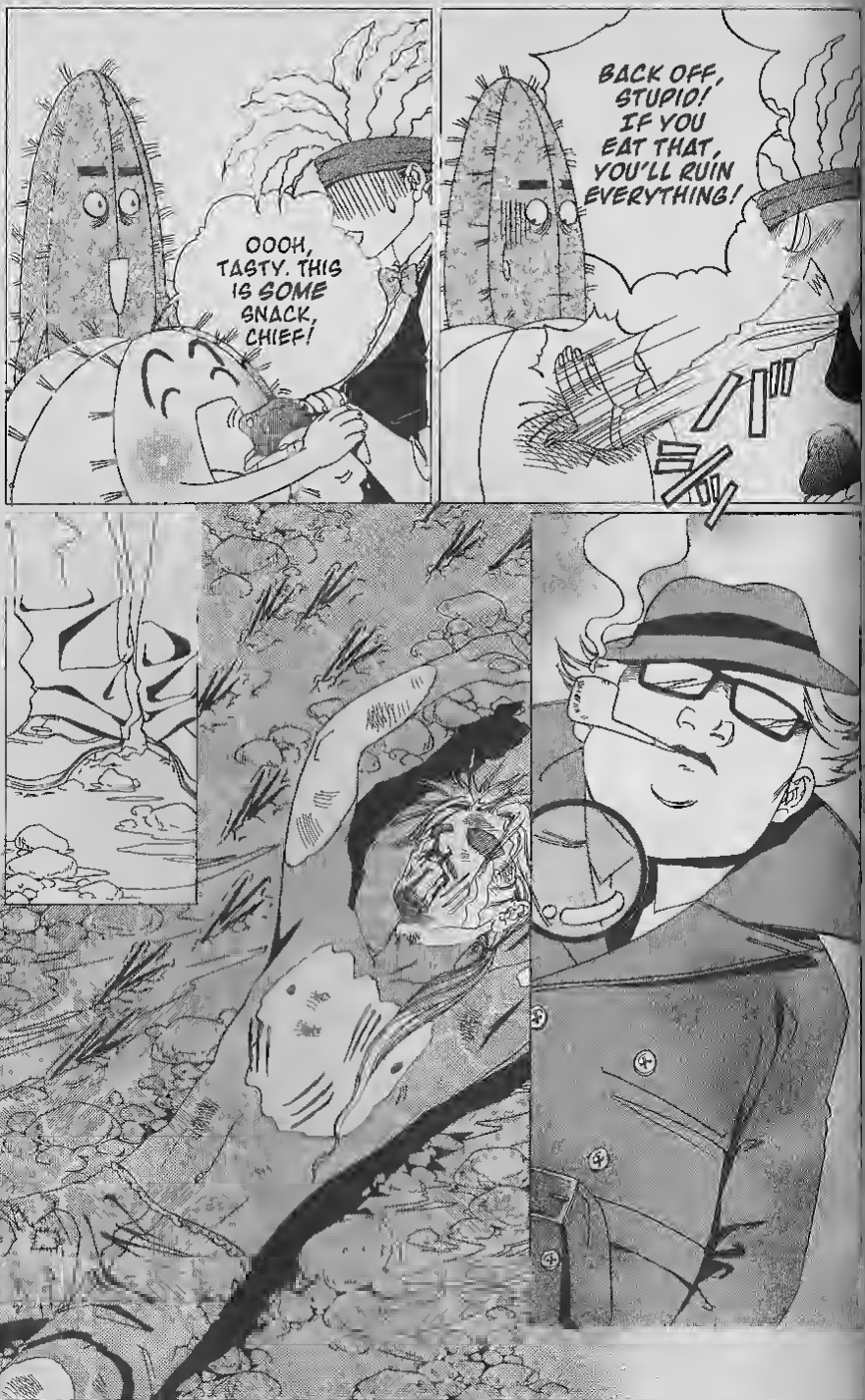
YES. I'M SEARCHING FOR A PRINCE TO MARRY ME. YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANY HANDSOME CRANES AROUND HERE PERCHANCE?
YOU DON'T SAY...?
...?
IT JUST SO HAPPENS I'M LOOKING FOR A CRANE TO BE MY PRINCESS!

クンクン
OH, MY! IS THIS THE SCENT OF A MAN?! I LOVE IT!!
SHALL WE DANCE?

HO HO HO ONCE WE SNATCH THAT BIRD, THAT WILL BE THE END OF THEIR STUPID ARK!
GLADLY.
BUT...THAT BIRD DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A CRANE. THIS ALL SEEMS A LITTLE TOO CONVENIENT.
THAT'S TRUE. ITS HEAD ISN'T RED...AND NO BLACK FEATHERS...
I'M SO JEALOUS! I WISH SOMEONE WOULD TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS THAT WAY!
HEE HEE HEE...THAT'S IT, COME CLOSER... CLOSER...
ｲﾀｰﾀﾞｷ

UH-OH!!
SOMEONE SAID THEY SAW THAT BEAKLESS WONDER LURKING AROUND HERE..
I FOUND HIM! HE'S OVER THERE!!
NOOOO!! DAMN IT!!
HUH...? WHO ARE THOSE SKEEVY BIRDS?

YOU BIG LIAR! YOU SAID YOU'D MARRY ME, AND THEN YOU STOLE ALL MY MONEY!
JERK! YOU SAID YOU WERE A SWAN, BUT YOU'RE JUST A HERON!!
NO NO NO!! OW! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!! PLEASE, CALM DOWN!!
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE AN IMPORTED PEACOCK!!
I DON'T THINK THAT GUY'S A CRANE. WE'D BETTER KEEP LOOKING.
WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A PROBLEM WITH CASTING. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT OURSELVES NEXT TIME.
HO HO HO, SHOULD WE WHIP OUT THE DIMENSION-CHANGING JELLY?
THEY CAN'T SUMMON THEIR ARK IF THEY'RE NOT ALL THREE TOGETHER.


OOOH, TASTY. THIS IS SOME SNACK, CHIEF!
BACK OFF, STUPID! IF YOU EAT THAT, YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING!

WE WERE DUMB TO EVER AGREE TO THIS!
WHERE ARE WE GOING TO FIND A RARE BIRD LIKE YOU IN JUST ONE DAY?

TCH!
IF I DON'T HOLD ON TO HOPE, WHAT'S LEFT?
...BE QUIET, IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO CRUSH YOUR BEAK...
カカカ

HUH...? WHAT IS THAT?
Squawk!!
THAT... THAT'S A CRANE LIKE ME...?
Quawk quaw!!

COOL... THAT'S DEFINITELY THE CRY OF A CRANE.
CAN IT BE TRUE? WE FOUND MY PRINCE?!

HEH HEH. YOU THINK THEY BOUGHT IT?
NO! STOP!! THAT'S A JELLY BOMB!!
EVERY... EVERYONE STOP--!
GOOD, GOOD...JUST A LITTLE MORE...!

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS --!!

MOVE!!
AH!!

AHHHHH!!
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ゴオオオ

JAPHETH!!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING? THAT'S...?!!
AAAAAHHH!!

予知

Chapter 4

IT WAS DIMENSION-CHANGING JELLY. IT BOUNCED HER OFF THIS EARTH.
JAPHETH...
SOMEONE'S TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH OUR MISSION
JAPHETH DISAPPEARED!!
THEY'RE ON TO US --!!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! WHO ARE YOU GUYS?!
ガッ
SORRY, THIS IS ALL YOU GET TODAY!
WHO'D WANT TO STOP US FROM SAVING THE WHOOPING CRANE? WE HAVE TO FIND OUT.
COUGH COUGH
IT'S MY FAULT. I SHOULD HAVE NEVER ASKED YOU TO FIND MY MATE HOW CAN WE GET YOUR LITTLE BROTHER BACK?
DON'T YOU SEE? IF JAPHETH'S NOT HERE, WE CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR BACK TO OUR DIMENSION.
THEY'VE STRANDED US ON THIS EARTH.

DON'T APOLOGIZE. IT SHOULD ALL TURN OUT OKAY.
IT'S NOT OKAY. IF WE DON'T HAVE JAPHETH, WE CAN'T GO BACK HOME.
SINCE MINMIN, TENTEN AND PINPIN ARE ALL CONNECTED, MAYBE IF WE FIND TENTEN FIRST...?

PIN-PIN!!
MIN-MIN!!
パタパタ
パタパタ
PLEASE FIND TENTEN AND JAPHETH. PLEASE.

WHAT... ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
Might as well.
SINCE WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, WE SHOULD MAKE THE BEST OF IT AND FIND THE PRINCE.
I'M SO SORRY...
A sparrow.
We've never seen him...
I don't know him...
A flock of penguins.

Pigeon lady
How should I know?
Mr. Magpie.
In fact, I *have* seen a bird that looks just like you.
HM...?

FINALLY WAKING UP, ARE YOU?
EEEEK! WH-WHO ARE YOU?!
"THANKS" WOULD BE A MORE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE I'M THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU

YOU SAVED ME...?
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL. IT'S NOT HEALTHY TO THROW YOUR BODY AROUND LIKE THAT.
HUH... HE HAS A BANDAGE AROUND HIS EYES. DID HE HURT THEM?

THAT STUPID CRANE'S TOTALLY BOY CRAZY. WE SHOULD'VE NEVER LET HER DRAG US ON HER ROMANTIC QUEST...
MAYBE SO...BUT ISN'T MATING AN IMPORTANT PART OF A CRANE'S LIFE?
LOVING ANOTHER GIVES THEM A REASON TO CONTINUE THE LIFE CYCLE.
BEING CAGED BY HUMANS PREVENTED HER FROM MEETING HER MATCH.
YOU...YOU THINK SO?
ハッ

THESE LOOK GOOD ON YOU, LITTLE LADY.
NATURALLY. I LOVE FLOWERS!
サアッ
WAIT! H-HOW DID YOU KN--?!!
THEN AGAIN, WITH HIS EYES ALL BANDAGED, HOW DID HE MAKE A FLOWER TIARA?

"LITTLE LADY"...?
OOOOH, I'M HUNGRY..
I SEE A FARMHOUSE
YOU MUST'VE BEEN STARVING! SLOW DOWN, OR YOU'LL GET SICK.

YOU EAT IT, YOU PAY FOR IT. THEM'S THE RULES.
THANKS. IT WAS DELICIOUS!
SINCE OUR YOUNGSTERS LEFT FOR THE CITY, WE'RE SHORTHANDED.
UNG!! NGGGH!! RAHHHHH!

THERE'S DEFINITELY NOTHING FREE IN THIS WORLD
HOW AM I GOING TO GET BACK TO MY FAMILY?
IS THAT...?
PINPIN!! MINMIN!!
MY OLDER SISTERS SENT YOU GUYS, HUH?
TEE HEE. AWESOME! LET'S GET OUT OF THIS PLACE!

HEY
WERE THEY RAISING DUCKS HERE, TOO?
UH... THAT'S...?

Hmm hmmm.
WHOA. THAT BUILDING'S MAGNIFICENT!
MY GOODNESS! MY PRINCE MUST BE VERY WEALTHY, TO LIVE IN A PALACE LIKE THIS.

OOOOH.
IT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL!

AND THAT...?
EXCEPT FOR THE TIMES I SAW MY REFLECTION IN THE WATER, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANOTHER CRANE BEFORE...
I'VE FINALLY FOUND A MATE!!

I'M PRINCESS. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I LIKE YOU. DO YOU LIKE ME?
YOU SEEM RETICENT. YOU DON'T TALK VERY MUCH, DO YOU?
ANYWAY, YOU AND I HAVE TO GET MARRIED.
WE'RE ENDANGERED, YOU KNOW, SO WE MAY NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE AT LOVE.
OOT!!

PRINCESS! THEY'VE FOUND US!!
WE SHOULD MAKE A RUN FOR IT!
OH, MY... HOW DID THE ZOOKEEPER TRAIL US ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
PRINCESS, THERE'S NO USE RUNNING.
BECAUSE...
NO!!
...ON THE DAY YOU WERE CAUGHT, I PUT A TRACKING DEVICE ON YOU.

MY BRACELET WON'T COME OFF--!!
IT'S MY OWN UNBREAKABLE COMPOUND!
DO YOU THINK IT'S TRUE?
AS TRUE AS I'M WEARING YOUR TEDDY BEAR PANTIES?
I KNEW IT, YOU BEAST!!!
I'M GOING TO SMASH YOU!!!

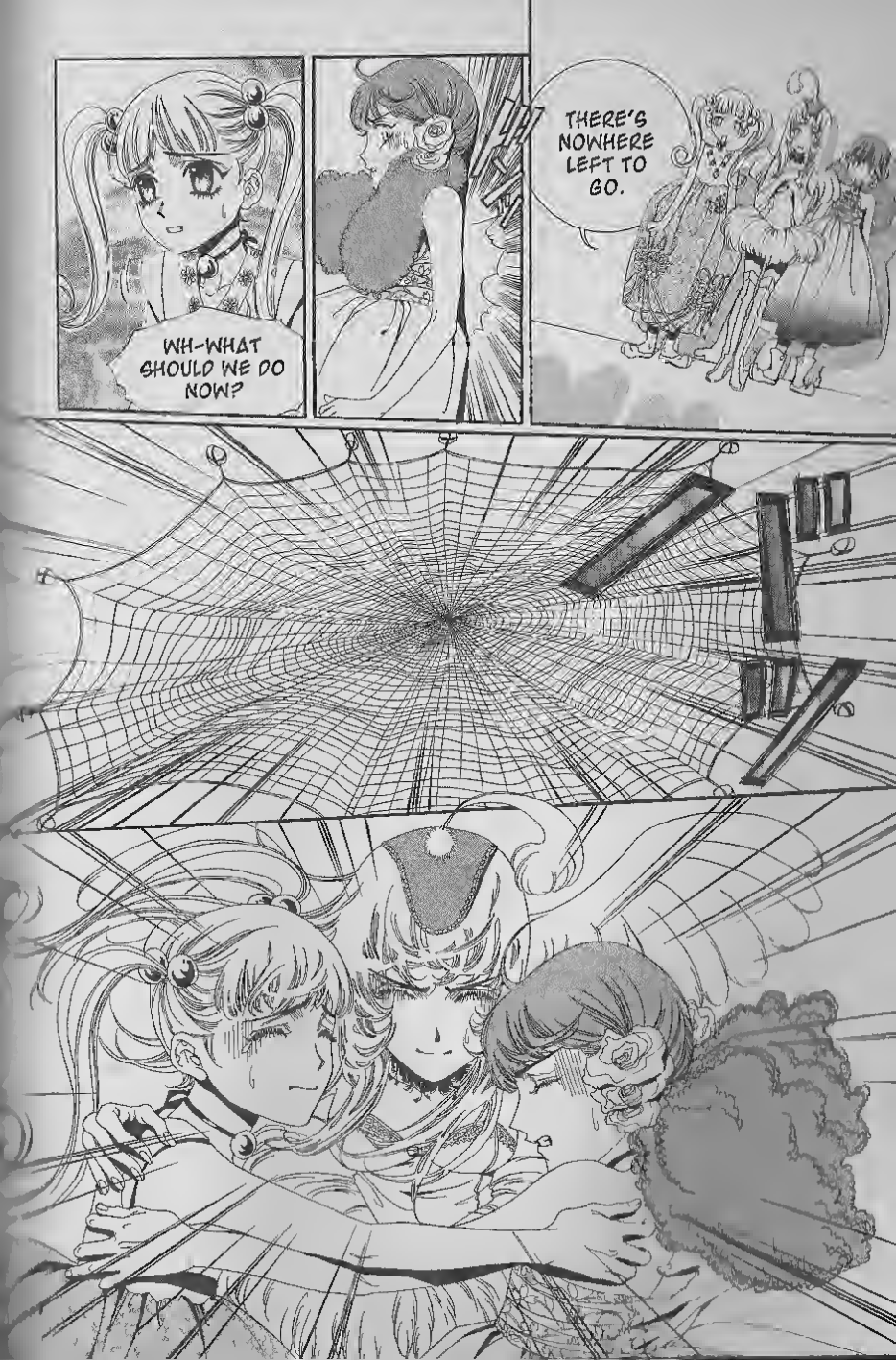
I-I'M JUST KIDDING. IF YOUR SMASH HAD CONNECTED, YOU'D HAVE KILLED ME, SIG!

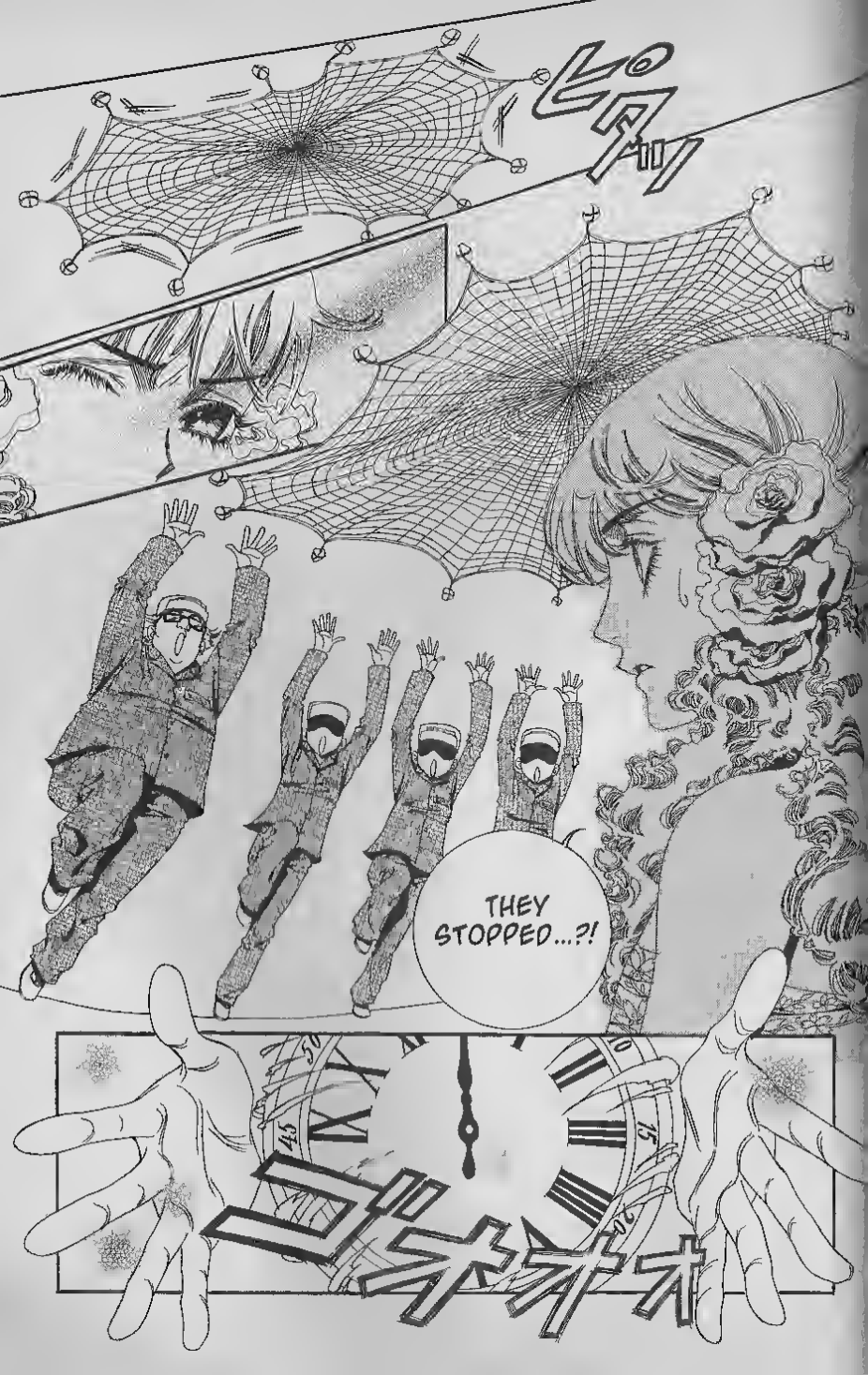
SHUCKS I DON'T LIKE THOSE KINDS OF JOKES. THEY'RE DANGEROUS.
HURRY! LET'S GET OUT WHILE WE CAN!
PLEASE, COME WITH US, PRINCE!
フッ
GAAYYAAAAA!

HE WAS STUFFED. NO WONDER...I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE THAT THERE WAS A CRANE IN A MUSEUM.
I'M SORRY, BUT WE HAVE TO GO. IF WE STAY ANY LONGER, THEY'LL CATCH YOU AND DRAG YOU BACK TO THE ZOO...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE ZOO?
LIFE IN THE WILD IS DANGEROUS. YOU COULD BE KILLED!
I DON'T CARE!
I PROVIDE A CLEAN HOME AND REGULAR MEALS FOR THE PRINCESS.
EVEN IF IT'S DANGEROUS...

I WANT TO FLY IN THE SKY, FREE AS THE BIRD THAT I AM.
I WANT TO BE WITH A CRANE THAT I LOVE...
...NOT TRAPPED IN A CAGE, GAWKED AT BY HUMANS.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH HUMANS LIKE ME...
NO MATTER HOW DELICIOUS YOUR FOOD...
I WANT TO BE FREE!!

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WELL YOU EXPLAIN IT, THE ZOOKEEPER WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND...
...BECAUSE HE CANNOT SEE YOUR SPIRIT.
OH, BOO HOO HOO.
DID YOU KNOW YOU GUYS BROKE THE LAW?
STEALING A RARE BIRD! IT'S A PUNISHABLE OFFENSE. YOU ROTTEN KIDS...
JUST ONCE... EVEN JUST A LITTLE...IT WOULD BE NICE IF A HUMAN REALLY LISTENED...


WH-WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO GO.


ピタ…!
THEY STOPPED...?!
ロボオオ

JAPHETH! YOU CAME BACK?!!
SWEET!
PRINCESS, I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID, AND I'M SORRY.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE RISKING OUR LIVES JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE BOY CRAZY.
ゴオオオ

HMPH!!
I THINK I KNOW HOW I CAN MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
?
ワイ ワイ
ワイ

S-SURE, DUCKS ARE NICE...BUT THEY'RE DUCKS.
NOT SO FAST.
ワイワイワイ
I CAN'T SETTLE FOR A BIRD WHO MERELY LOOKS SIMILAR.
THEN LOOK OVER THERE.

11
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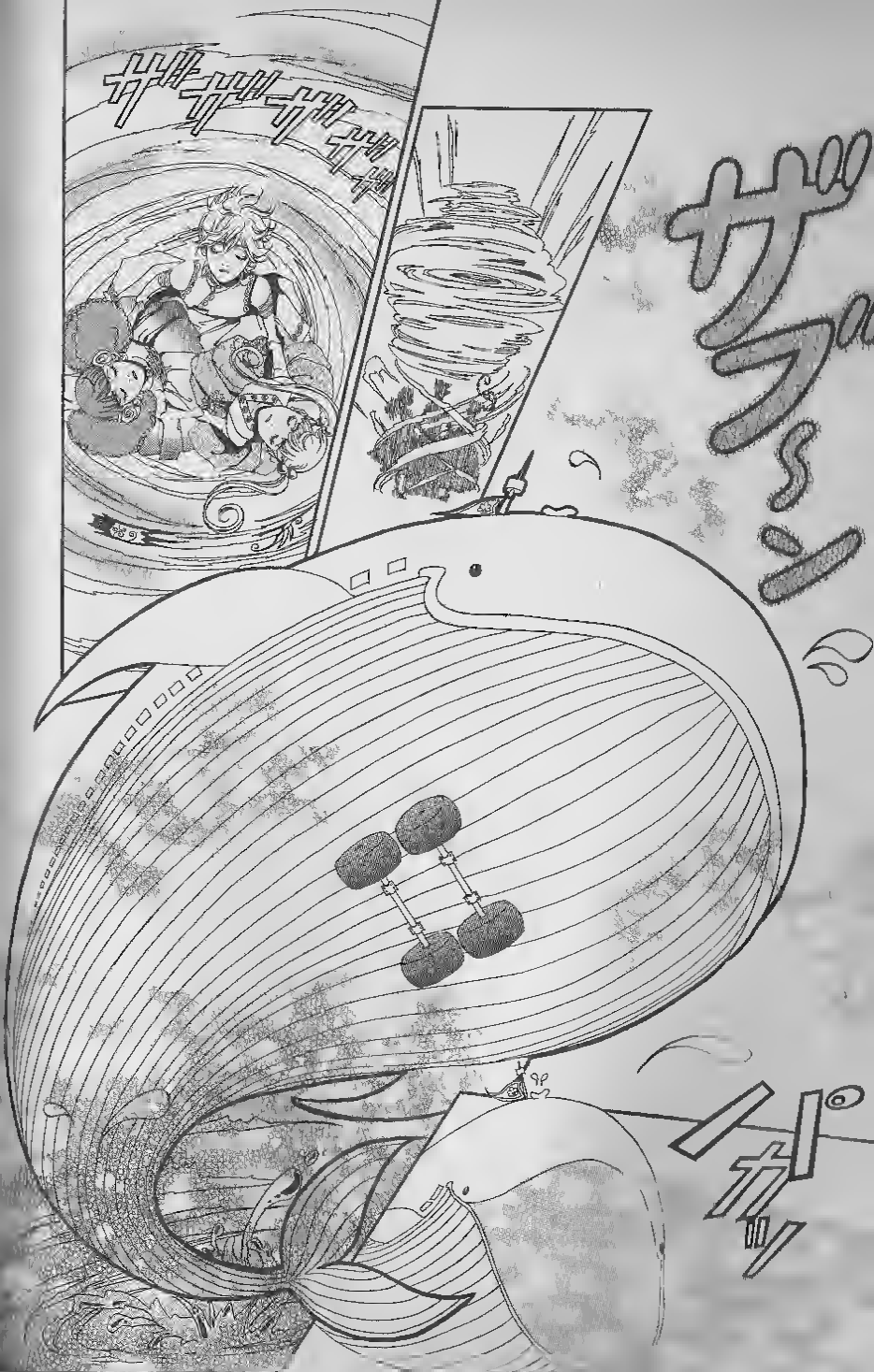
WHEN I FIRST SAW HIM, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A BIG, NASTY GOOSE.
HE CAME OUT OF A GIANT EGG I FOUND IN A DITCH.
I GAVE IT TO A DUCK, AND SHE SAT ON IT UNTIL HE HATCHED.
UM...HELLO. I'M PRINCESS.
I'M DUCK. YOU..
YOU'RE REALLY BEAUTIFUL.

THINGS WORKED OUT WELL, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
NOW...SINCE WE FOUND YOUR PRINCE, ARE YOU READY TO GET ON THE ARK?
WELL..THERE IS ONE MORE THING..

PRINCESS HAS SUCH BEAUTIFUL WINGS.
HUMANS ALWAYS TRY TO POSSESS NATURE...
...BUT ONCE THEY GET IT IN THEIR HANDS, THEY TAKE ALL THE BEAUTY OUT OF IT.
YES. NATURE LOOKS BEST IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM.

AWW...IT'S SO TOUCHING, CHIEF.
MORON!!! WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, ANYWAY?!!
AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE...
ALL RIGHT! HOW ABOUT WE START WRAPPING THIS UP?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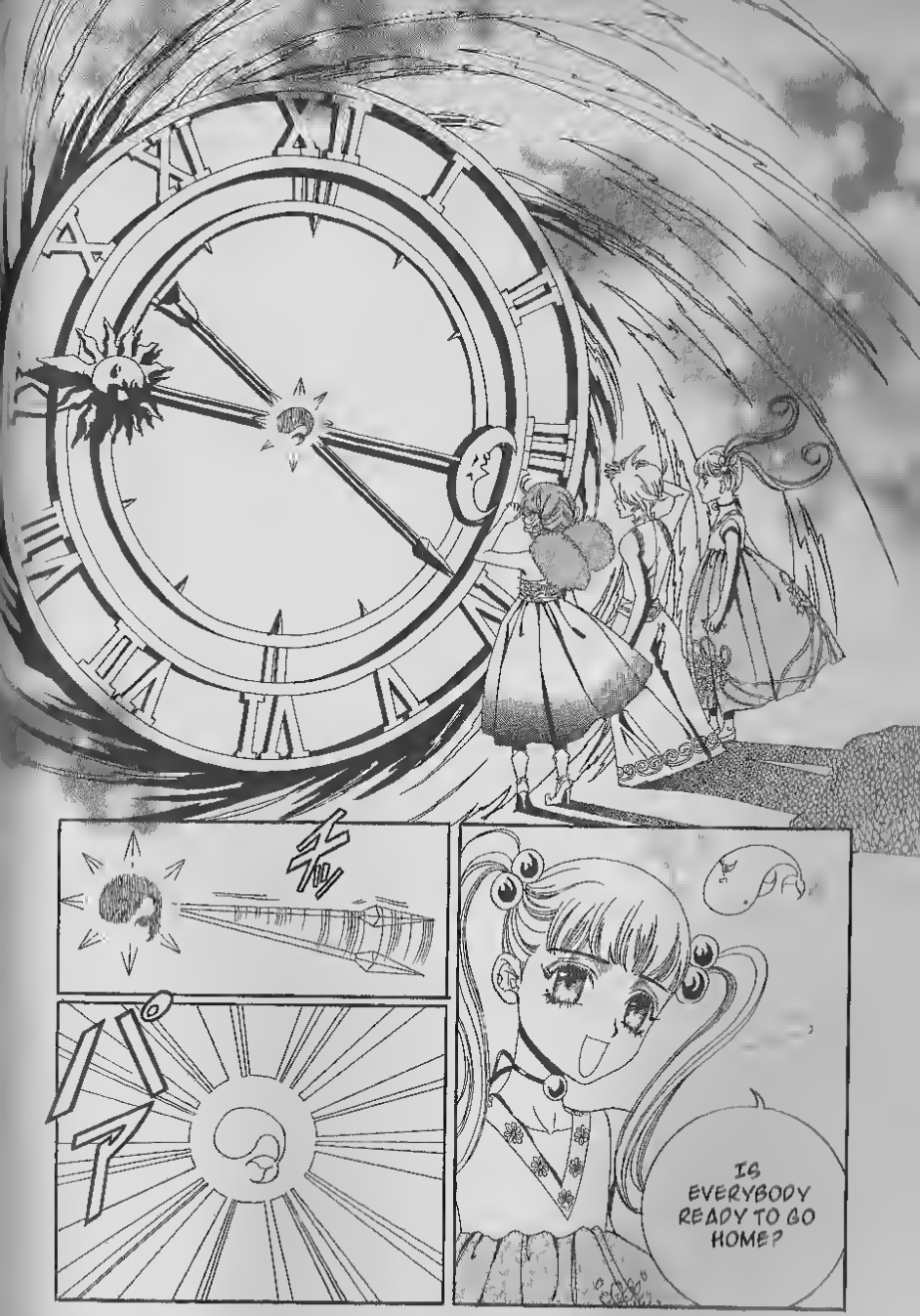
I HOPE ONE DAY...
...YOU THREE WILL ALSO FIND GOOD BOYFRIENDS AND BE AS HAPPY AS I AM.


IS EVERYBODY READY TO GO HOME?

WHOO HOO
Another mission completed successfully. But some mysteries remain...

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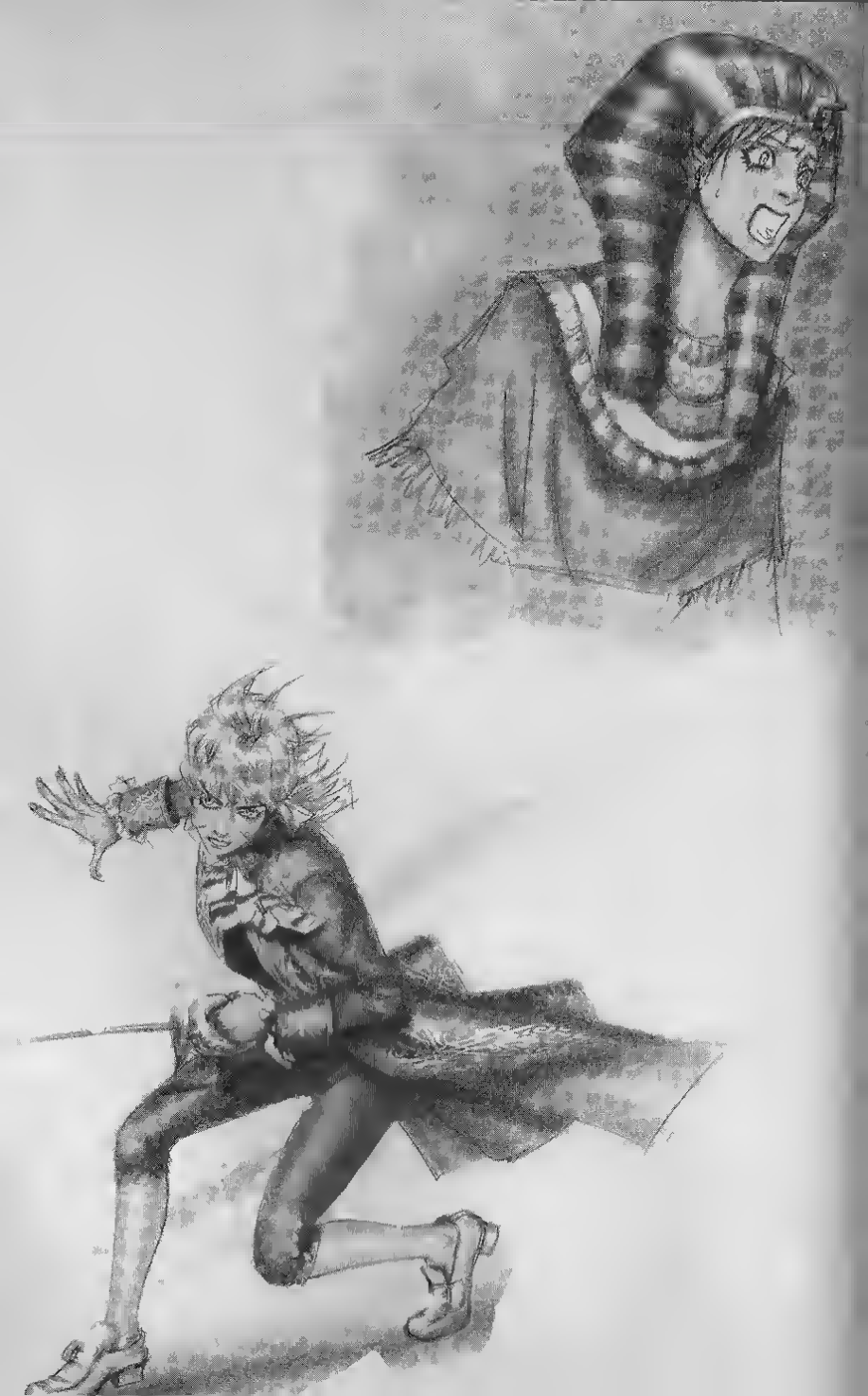
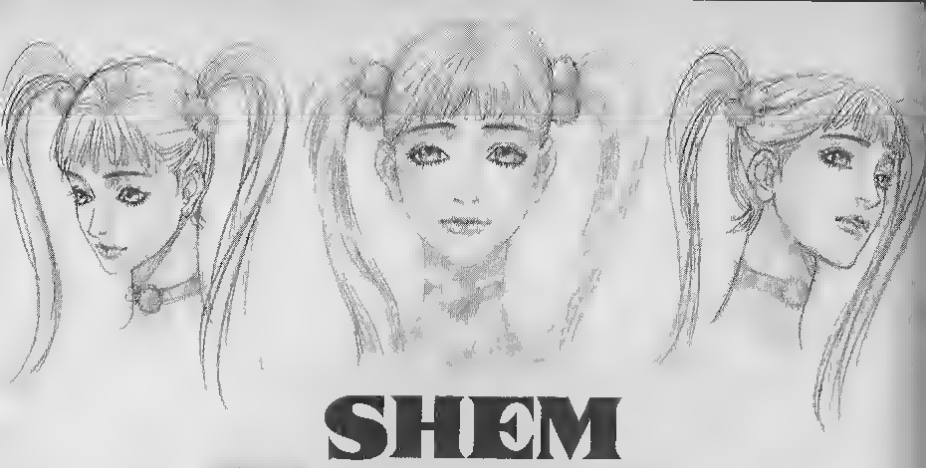
And the identity of the mysterious Cactus Three is revealed.

JAPHETH





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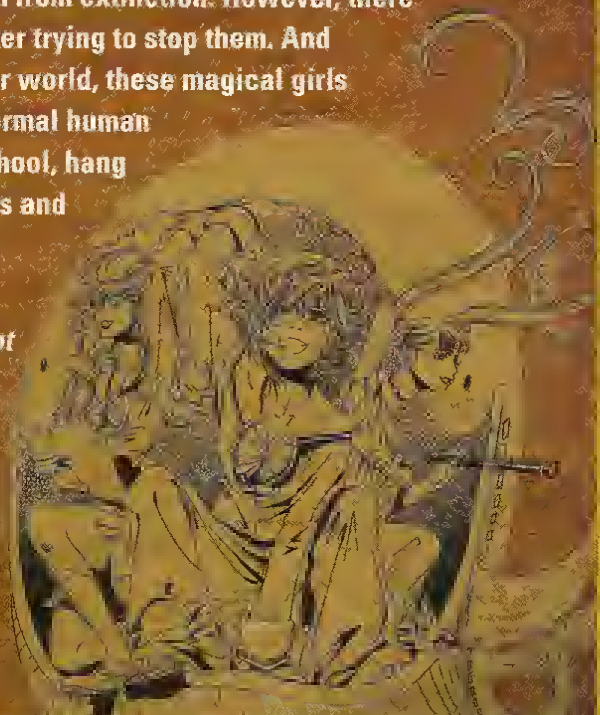

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